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JFK Autopsy Bars 1-Killer Theory: Doc

Pittsburgh, Aug. 26 (AP) — A forensic pathologist who examined the records and materials of the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy said today that accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald could not have acted alone.

The pathologist, Cyril Wecht, who is Allegheny County coroner, called a news conference to announce that his two-day examination of the autopsy materials at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., convinced him that it was "physically impossible" for only one gunman to have slain Kennedy.

Wecht's findings were in direct contradiction not only with the Warren Report's conclusion that a single assassin was responsible for Kennedy's death, but also with a report by George K. Lattimer, the first private physician to examine the X-rays.

At Least Two, He Says

Wecht said, "The fact is that the physical evidence shows that not any one person could have been a shooter. There had to have been at least two people shooting."

Wecht charged that the single-assassin finding of the lengthy Warren Report hinges on the theory that one bullet fired from a single gun wounded Kennedy as he sat in the back seat of his limousine, and also wounded and passed through the body of Gov. John Connally of Texas, who was riding in the front seat.

Lattimer made his report last January, about two months after the expiration of a five-year ban that had been asked by the Kennedy family on making public the material.

At that time, Lattimer, chairman of the department of urology at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, said there was no doubt in his mind that Kennedy was gunned down by a single assailant. He said the X-rays proved that the front and rear wounds in the slain President were caused by the same bullet which passed through Kennedy's body and then struck Connally.

Wecht disagreed. "The magic bullet theory is the *one* *naïve* *idea* of the Warren Report," he said. "It is absolutely untenable from a scientific standpoint."

He declined to say how many gunmen he thought were involved.

Out of His Balliwick

Asked about the conflict between his report and Lattimer's, Wecht, reached at his summer home in Milford, Conn., said the New York doctor "is a urologist and deals with kidneys. This is completely out of his field of expertise . . ."

He also said that Lattimer had spent only three or four hours in the archives. Wecht said Lattimer was chosen as the first private physician to examine the X-rays "because he had made himself into a pro-government buff on this . . . They sent Lattimer in there because they knew what he would say and what he would do."

Asked who "they" were, Wecht would only say, "The people who are eager to see to it that nothing is done to reopen this matter."

Wecht, a long-time critic of the Warren Report, said he based his findings on an examination last week of X-rays, photographs, films, bullets and bullet fragments.

Wecht said several "extremely relevant" items—including microscopic slides and Kennedy's brain, which he said was to have been preserved—were not made available to him.

"Looking at the X-rays," he said, "I discovered a dark, brownish-black object inside the brain. . . . Nobody ever mentioned this previously. Nobody ever described it."

He did not say whether he thought the object was a bullet.